



-28-

STIMULATION OF CARTILAGE GROWTH WITH AGONISTS OF THE NON-PROTEOLYTICALLY ACTIVATED THROMBIN RECEPTOR

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

- Disclosed is a method of stimulating cartilage growth, repair or regeneration at a site in a subject in need of such growth, repair or regeneration.

 The method comprises the step of administering a therapeutically effective amount of an agonist of the non-proteolytically activated thrombin receptor to the site.
- Also disclosed is a method of stimulating the proliferation and expansion of chrondrocytes *in vitro*. The method comprises culturing chrondrocytes in the presence of a stimulating amount of an NPAR agonist.